

# PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL CIVIC CENTER LAND FOR PARK, TEENAGE CANTEEN UNDER STUDY

**20 Acres To Cost \$200,000**

Further plans for making Torrance's new civic center one of the most attractive in the west were proposed for study Tuesday, including the purchase of 20 more acres of land and the construction of a \$150,000 teenage center.

Motion to refer the matter to the Recreation Commission for study and recommendation was made by Councilman Victor Benstead and unanimously approved by the council.

"We should look forward to acquiring more property north of the civic center," Councilman Benstead stated. "There are 20 acres there which we could use for a future park site."

**Must Acquire Land Now**  
Mayor Albert Isen also favored the idea.

"I understand that 14 acres adjacent to the civic center have already been sold," he said, in calling for speed in the matter. "I don't know if it is advisable for heavy manufacturing to go in next to the civic center. The area should be used for an auditorium, youth center, park, and courthouse."

The city, it was indicated, might have to start condemnation proceedings where land has already been sold.

City Manager George Stevens indicated that it would cost around \$200,000 to purchase the 20 acres, and that the money would have to be raised through a bond issue.

**Youth Center**  
In discussing the youth center, the mayor had reference to a project being spearheaded by Officers Don Nash and Buck (Turn to Page 5)

**Man Killed Crossing Western Ave.**

The death Sunday of James G. Snell, 52, of 20315 Denker avenue, marked another dark chapter in the series of traffic accidents that have occurred with grim frequency lately. This brings the year's fatalities in Torrance up to eight.

Snell was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General hospital after being struck by a car as he was walking across Western avenue, south of 190th street. The car was driven by Eugene Schroeder, 28, of Los Angeles.

Within 10 minutes of the fatal accident, a freak accident occurred along Pacific Coast highway, near Calle Mayor. Ygnacia Lovera, 28, of Santa Monica, was repairing a flat tire when his car was struck by a car driven by Patricia Foiden, 35, of 112 Paseo de Gracia, investigators said.

The impact sent Lovera's car against him, causing a possible broken leg.

Mrs. Foiden suffered minor injuries. A 12-year-old Torrance girl is wearing a heavy cast this week after being taken to Harbor General hospital following an accident which occurred last week at 174th street and Arlington avenue.

Suffering a fractured leg is Francine Brown, 12, of 2113 West 178th street, after being hit by a car driven by Violet White, 42, of 3226 West 180th (Turn to Page 14)

**OPEN LETTER TO 15 CANDIDATES**

**Where Do You Stand On These Issues?**

In order to help Torrance voters form a more concrete opinion of the 15 candidates running for the three City Council posts, it is important to know how these individuals stand on certain major problems facing the city.

We are herewith inviting everyone of the 15 candidates to answer this open letter. Their answers will be published two weeks from today (March 22). Replies must be in the Torrance Press office by Monday morning, 10 a.m., March 19.

**CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO GIVE A STRAIGHT YES OR NO ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION. ADDITIONAL EXPLANATORY COMMENTS MAY BE MADE.**

1. Despite a streamlined oil field law passed by the present council, proper oil derrick provisions were sidestepped. Do you intend to propose stricter legislation which will permit the removal of hazardous derricks which, for all practical purposes, are inoperative?

2. The need for off-street parking is a serious problem in Torrance. However, Torrance still does not have a law requiring individuals or firms planning to construct new commercial enterprises to provide proper off-street parking sites. Do you intend to introduce such legislation?

3. A suggestion has been made to propose a \$1,000,000 bond issue to the voters for purposes of providing additional off-street parking sites in Torrance. Do you favor placing that issue before the voters?

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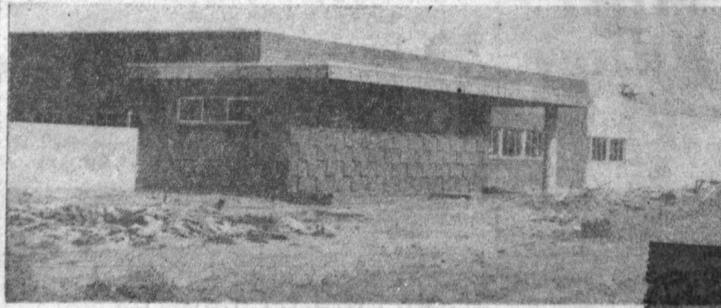
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THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

NO. 47

# 'Good Samaritan' Purse Thief Caught



**NEW CIVIC CENTER—RISING OUT OF THE DUST**

Construction is going forward by leaps and bounds on the new civic center located at Maple avenue and Torrance boulevard. The police station (foreground) will be ready sometime in June or July. The civic center (background) will be ready around August 1.

—Press Photo

**NARBONNE HIGH**

## Caller Warns of 'Bomb', High School Evacuated

Although school officials, firemen, and sheriff's deputies suspected a hoax, they didn't take any chances following a mystery call to Narbonne high school that "there is a bomb in the school."

What seemed like an ordinary fire drill to most students Monday wasn't quite so ordinary after the call.

Mrs. Mary Timothy of the school office received the 'bomb' call.

The male caller hung up before Mrs. Timothy could ask further questions. Principal Herbert Morey then called a fire drill while firemen and deputy sheriffs searched the school for half an hour in an attempt to locate the 'bomb.'

After a thorough search during which no bomb was found, students were signaled back to their classes.

Torrance may be just a dot on the map geographically speaking, but when it comes to building activities it is one of the biggest dots among cities in the western states ranking in seventh place.

A statistical survey made by "Western Building" shows Torrance in seventh place in building activity for the month of January among cities in states west of Colorado.

Torrance was surpassed only by Los Angeles and Los Angeles county, Orange county, Vancouver, B.C., San Francisco, and Denver.

It surpassed in building activity such cities as Sacramento, San Bernardino, Seattle, San Diego, Portland, Glendale, and Long Beach.

Figures for the top seven during the month of January are as follows:

Los Angeles	\$40,100,044
Los Angeles county	31,665,562
Orange county	16,592,273
Vancouver, B.C.	9,744,951
San Francisco	9,608,039
Denver	8,722,403
Torrance	7,609,226

Torrance continued its record growth during February also (Turn to Page 19)

## TEAC Topic

The combined city-school election proposal will be discussed at a meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee at the Monday noon luncheon, March 12 in the YWCA building, 2320 Carson street.

## IT ONLY COST HER 2c A CALL

About 75 people responded to this ad in the Torrance Press classified section and it cost Mrs. Kenneth Clark of 26303 Zephyr little more than two cents a call:

**2-BEDROOM HOUSE** in Torrance. Garage and wash room. 1333 W. 221st St., or call DA. 6-2956.

"Results?" Mrs. Clark exclaimed. "Why, the phone started ringing already at 6:45 Thursday morning. It rang three times before 8:30. From then on, I believe, it must have rung 75 times. It kept on ringing until 10 o'clock that evening. I rented the house to a lovely couple and certainly have to thank the Torrance Press for it."

The Clarks didn't have to worry about having a tenant-less house sitting around without any rent coming in because in a matter of hours they had the place rented—and all for only \$1.60, the cost of the ad.

For quick, inexpensive results, call FA. 8-2345 and place your classified ad—today!

Two new stores are being added to the downtown shopping scene this week as the relocated Benson's dress shop and a new Gallenkamp's family shoe store announced plans to celebrate their grand opening this Friday and Saturday, March 9-10.

The stores are located in a new building erected at the corner of Cravens and El Prado where Van De Camp's was formerly located.

"This is one of our most modernistic shoe stores," Roy M. Hoyer, manager of the new Gallenkamp's store, stated.

**Gifts For All**  
He indicated that there will be gifts for everyone during the grand opening and that free (Turn to Page 5)

## Council Plans Election In Victor Annexation

It's now up to 200 registered voters in the Victor area whether the 604 acres bounded by Torrance boulevard, Del Amo boulevard, Hawthorne avenue, and the Redondo boundary line will be annexed to Torrance.

The City Council closed the hearing on the matter Tuesday and indicated that a date for the election will be set now.

The election will probably be held some time in May, according to City Attorney James Hall.

Protests received by the council were declared insufficient, and denied on the basis that those who protested represented only \$58,000 of the total of \$500,000 land value.

The council indicated that its thinking regarding zoning was that present land uses should continue if the area is annexed.

A few property owners expressed concern that Torrance would change present zoning uses.

Donald Guardane, 14, of 22314 Avis court, Torrance, found that he was unable to walk when he climbed back on the breakwater, according to county lifeguards.

The other unidentified youth contacted lifeguards who rushed to Guardane's aid. After placing a tension bandage on his leg, they placed him in a wire basket stretcher. Four men lowered the stretcher into a skiff which rushed the youngster to the beach.

He was taken to the Family Medical Center in Redondo

Two bandits moved in stealthily as the fog, shortly after midnight Friday, robbed a service station attendant of \$140, and phantom-like slipped away under the fog's protective cover.

Jack A. Purcell was counting the receipts from closing a service station at 174th street and Crenshaw boulevard when he saw a man standing at the door.

He stepped to the door and the man drew a gun, ordering him to open the door. As Purcell did so, the man entered and took the money which Purcell (Turn to Page 19)

## 'X' Marks Spot for 21,857 Voters

A total of 21,857 voters will be eligible to stamp their convictions all over the April 10 municipal ballot, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett reported this week.

More than 4000 names have been added to Torrance's growing army of voters since 1954 when the figure stood at 17,072, according to County Registrar of Voters Ben S. Hite.

Registration figures for the city elections since 1946 are:

1946	5,236
1948	5,538
1950	8,640
1952	11,008
1954	17,072
1956	21,857

No breakdown on political affiliations of the city's registered voters has been compiled yet, Bartlett said. This is being done by Hite's office and will be reported when available.

**WAR VETERANS:** Councilman Drake proposed that a bronze plaque containing all the names of Torrance's World War II veterans be placed in the new civic center. Councilman Benstead reminded Drake that he had made a proposal to bring the list up to date two years ago and that the council adopted that proposal unanimously. Mayor Isen said he would like to see a memorial rather than just a plaque. He (Turn to Page 19)

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## Two Stores Hold Grand Openings

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## DEFLATES TIRES AND WALLETS

A 'good samaritan' who helped stranded women motorists in order to help himself to their wallets was arrested Friday on charges of forgery and grand theft.

The suspect, Richard E. Poynton, 29, a Bellflower tile setter, was identified by two Torrance victims, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department.

Poynton was arrested on suspicion of forgery. During the interrogation he was linked with the 'good samaritan' thefts.

Poynton's alleged mode of operation was to let the air out of his victim's tires during the victim's absence. Then as the victim returned to the car, offer to help her and while doing so, steal the wallet out of the victim's purse which she had placed in the car.

He was identified by Mrs. Doris Whitbeck, 1219 Hickory, and Mrs. Elizabeth Searles, 3511 Newton who were victimized on the parking lots of two local markets in January.

Mrs. Searles lost her wallet and Mrs. Whitbeck lost \$30. Poynton admits deflating the tires and then stealing the purses, according to Ashton.

He is being held by Lynwood (Turn to Page 19)

## PLANT MANAGER APPOINTMENT of Glenn C. Merkle

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## REDUCING DELINQUENCY

Noted Youth Authority Will Speak Here Tonight

The current wave of juvenile delinquency discussions continues tonight with the appearance of Ben Solomon, noted authority, lecturer, and author, who is firmly convinced that juvenile delinquency can be reduced.

"We Can Reduce Juvenile Delinquency" will be Solomon's topic when he speaks tonight, Thursday, March 8, at 8 p.m. in the Torrance Civic Auditorium, corner Cravens and El Prado.

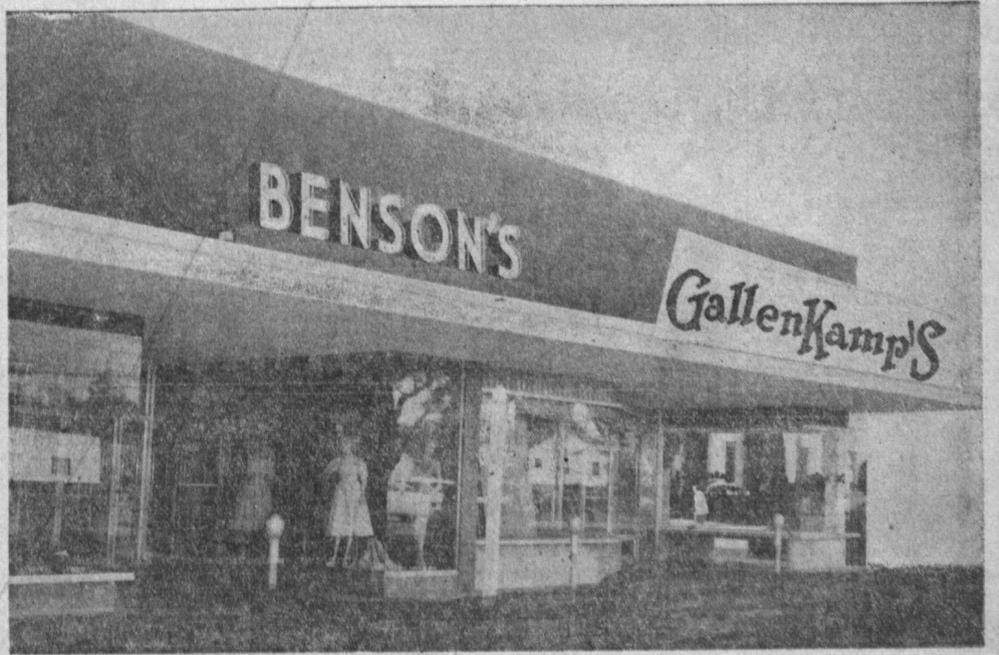
The event is open to the public. Nominally priced tickets are available at the door. Teenagers will be admitted free.

Solomon's appearance is sponsored by the Torrance Coordinating Council and the Torrance Recreation Department. This lecture will be a follow-up on the Torrance town hall meeting

on juvenile delinquency held Monday at the request of Governor Goodwin Knight and Mayor Albert Isen.

It was felt by the Coordinating Council that many questions raised at that meeting could best be answered by having an outstanding authority on the subject of juvenile delinquency speak here.

The Coordinating Council therefore enlisted the aid of the (Turn to Page 14)



THERE WILL BE GIFTS FOR EVERYONE

Gallenkamp's and Benson's will hold grand opening Friday and Saturday. Stores are located at Cravens and El Prado.

—Press Photo